

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 2 - Number 5

FEBRUARY, 1954

One Great Hour of Sharing



UNITED APPEAL FOR RELIEF
AND RECONSTRUCTION

One Great Hour of Sharing

"One Great Hour of Sharing" is the principal observance of the annual United Appeal for overseas relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, sponsored by Church World Service to aid co-operating denominations in their efforts to raise funds through their churches for ministries to those in distress overseas. These are helped so far as resources allow on the basis of need without question as to race, nationality or creed. In 1954 the denominations are working together for the sixth consecutive year.

Korea, Germany and Austria, Yugoslavia, India, Pakistan and the Near East are major areas to be covered by the 1954 United Appeal. In these areas, emergency relief (food, shelter, clothing, medicine) is desperately needed to relieve suffering, while rehabilitation and reconstruction programs are vital to restoration of spiritual and physical sufficiency of the stricken peoples.

Most of the denominations cooperating in Church World Service will conduct individual appeals within their own fellowships with special relief offerings taken in individual churches. Some denominations will dedicate their special Easter offering to this cause. The Congregational Christian denomination is participating in the "One Great Hour of Sharing" observances on Sunday, March 28, 1954.

More than \$8,000,000 will be necessary in 1954 to sustain the work and projects supported by the appeals.

Conditions in Areas of Need

In KOREA—at least 9,000,000 people, both refugees and others—men, women and children—are in desperate need. With no established means of livelihood, they exist in improvised shacks of straw and mud, discarded army tents, waste wood and iron. At least 400,000 are widows, 100,000 are orphans, many of them roaming the countryside hungry and homeless. Destitute war widows and their families need special care, as do crippled and ailing Korean war veterans, and young girls and widows on the streets. All need clothing, food, shelter, medicine, and continuing programs of rehabilitation.

In INDIA—Although in the autumn of 1953 rainfall was almost normal over much of the country, six successive years of drought and semi-starvation have left their mark on millions of people who will need time to recover. They also need more than the bare subsistence diet that is "normal" for the majority of India's long-suffering people.

In PAKISTAN—West Punjab, the "bread basket" of West Pakistan, is normally semi-arid, but it is now even more so as rains have been short in many parts of north India and Pakistan. Refugees and others suffer from drought and consequent food shortage.

In the NEAR EAST—no basic solution for the desperate Arab refugee situation has been found, while nearly a million people continue to exist on meager doles, barely keeping alive in hopeless squalor in caves, ragged tents and other

makeshift shelters, with clothing in tatters and children unschooled.

In EUROPE—streams of hungry refugees from behind the Iron Curtain still make their way daily to the free European countries without possessions—often without clothing—hopeless unless they can be helped to find new homes locally or in other countries, including the U.S.A. The situation is most acute in Germany, Austria, Trieste, Greece, and Yugoslavia. These are only the latest arrivals among Europe's more than 11,000,000 uprooted people, some of whom have been in camps for over six years.

In HONGKONG—about 300,000 refugees live in crude squatters' huts perched on steep hillsides. They are destitute, with no regular employment and insufficient food and clothing.

In OTHER AREAS OF NEED—Some provision has been made in the 1954 relief schedules for emergencies which may spread distress in these and other countries of the world, such as earthquakes, floods, fires, etc. Such emergencies in 1953 included the floods in Holland and adjacent countries, and also in Japan and Italy; the earthquakes in Greece and the holocaust in Pusan and Hongkong. In each case, funds and supplies on hand made immediate help available, pending programs for long-range assistance.

Funds received will be used for individual programs of the denominations, and for joint programs through Church World Service in which the churches cooperate in aiding the stricken peoples, whose plight places an urgent responsibility upon Christians in more fortunate lands.

In addition to supporting overseas projects of rehabilitation and reconstruction, funds are needed for processing, shipping and distributing contributed food and clothing, and for the resettlement of refugees in the United States under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

In 1953 only four Alabama churches (\$122.41), three Georgia churches (\$243.76) and five Tennessee churches (\$170.39) participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing! Twelve churches out of 120, for a total of \$535.53! Surely the churches of the Southeast Convention will make a better record in 1954.

Materials for promotion may be obtained from the Convention office. We will have a supply of offering envelopes, posters, a cartoon presentation, and limited quantities of a 4-page leaflet for distribution.

Work Day For Christ Report

The annual Work Day for Christ was observed by the young people of the Southeast Convention in the following churches:

Phenix City, United	\$10.50
Garden City	10.00
Chipley, Oak Grove	8.00
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	17.20
Pleasant Hill, Community	19.00
	\$64.70

CONVOCATION and MINISTERS' SCHOOL

by Dr. Thomas Anderson

Over-all plans have been made by the Committee on Ministry and Churches of the Southeast Convention, in cooperation with Superintendent Butterfield and Southern Union College at Wadley, Alabama, for the first Ministers' Convocation and the beginning of a continued program or in-service study and planning for ministers serving parishes in the Convention. The first Convocation and Ministers' School will be held during the first week in May, opening on Monday, May 3, and continuing through Friday, May 7.

Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, Associate Minister of the General Council and Secretary of the National Commission on the Ministry, will be Convocation lecturer. Courses of study will be offered to the ministers of the Convention on these general themes:

1. Christian Education and Youth Work
2. Bible Theology
3. Church Administration and Practical Theology.
4. Speech, Homiletics, and English

Teachers of these courses will be Convention Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield, Associate Superintendent Carl Dollar, Professor C. S. Bennett, Professor Carl Landes, and the Rev. Guy L. Colbert.

This program will offer an opportunity of great value to all who are serving Congregational Christian Churches in the Convention, enabling those who are ordained to refresh their understanding and techniques, and those who are looking toward ordination to prepare themselves more adequately for that significant event.

The following sequence of courses is planned:

First Semester: "Preparation and Delivery of Sermons" (Landes); "Old Testament" (Bennett).

Second Semester: "The Pastor and His Church" (Dollar); "New Testament" (Bennett).

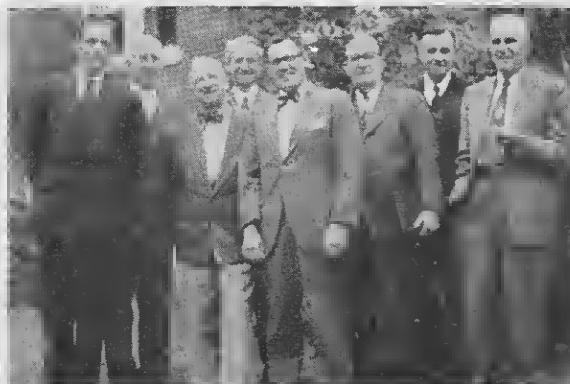
Third Semester: "Our Christian Beliefs" (Bennett); "Church History" (Colbert).

Fourth Semester: "Christian Education" (Butterfield); "The Church and Evangelism" (Colbert).

The plan is to begin these courses at the school and complete them through correspondence with the course leaders during the following six months, or until the next Semester begins, with a similar period of intensive study for five days at the College. Thus it is clear that to complete all the courses will require a total of two years.

The Committee on Ministry and Churches will have books available at the opening of the first semester and Convocation in May which will be supplied to those enrolled who will be urged to purchase them, if possible, for their libraries.

It is hoped that all the ministers of our churches in the Southeast Convention will arrange their



The Committee on Ministry and Churches meeting at Southern Union College. Left to right: The Rev. Henry Abbott, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Dr. Clarence Bennett, the Rev. Carl Landes, President Clyde Flannery, Dr. Thas. Anderson, the Rev. Guy L. Colbert, and the Rev. C. Carl Dollar. Supt. Butterfield was the photographer.

affairs so as to share in these five significant days at Southern Union so as to engage in this continuing program of Convocations and Ministers' Schools by which the total life of the fellowship in the Convention can be lifted to a high level of effectiveness in behalf of the Kingdom of God. All ministers in the Convention are urged to obtain the cooperation of their churches, at least to the extent of granting them the privilege of being away from their parishes for that time and, if possible, covering their travel expenses.

Those of you who know Dr. Buschmeyer and the leaders of these courses will realize what a wonderful opportunity this Convocation and Ministers' School will offer.

Those of the Committee on Ministry and Churches who have been active in the planning of this vital and worthwhile program are: The Rev. Henry Abbott, the Rev. Guy Colbert, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, and Dr. Thomas Anderson. Those of the Convention are Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield and Associate Superintendent Carl Dollar. Those from Southern Union College include President Clyde C. Flannery, Professor C. S. Bennett and Professor Carl Landes.

Any communications relative to the Convocation and Ministers' School should be addressed to Rev. Erston M. Butterfield at 673 Piedmont Avenue, N.E., Atlanta; the Secretary of the Committee on Ministry and Churches, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.; or Dr. Thomas Anderson, Chairman of the Committee on Ministry and Churches, at 675 Piedmont Avenue N. C., Atlanta.

Further information about these significant plans, together with a detailed program and schedule, will be sent soon to all ministers and clerks in the Convention.

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If You Won't Listen to Us ... Listen to the F.B.I.

Parents who are reluctant to insist on regular Church or Church School attendance may fortify themselves with this statement by J. Edgar Hoover.

"Shall I force my child to go to Sunday School and Church? Yes! And with no further discussion about the matter."

Startled? Why?

How do you answer Junior when he comes to the breakfast table Monday morning and announces rebelliously, "I'm not going to school today." You know—Junior goes.

How do you answer when Junior comes in very much besmudged, and says, "I'm not going to take a bath". You know—Junior bathes.

How do you answer when Junior, threatened with illness, says, "I'm not going to take medicine". You know—he takes it.

Why all this timidity, then, in the realm of his spiritual guidance and growth? Going to let him wait and decide what Church he'll go to when he is old enough? Quit your kidding! You didn't wait until he was old enough to decide whether or not he wished to go to public school and get an education . . . or until he could make up his mind as to whether he wished to be a clean person or not . . . or whether he wished to take the medicine that would make him well.

Afraid he'll succumb to the old wives' tale about "too much religion when he was young", "parents made me go" sort of gag? Look about you. The story is demonstratedly and obviously false, despite its currency. Do you suppose that because you insist over his protests that Junior take his bath tonight he will turn into a "Bathless Groggins" when he is 21?

What shall we say when Junior announced he doesn't like Sunday School or Church? That's an easy one. Just be consistent.

"Junior, in our house we all attend Sunday School and Church and that includes you." Your firmness and example here will furnish a bridge

1954 WORK CAMPS

Each year the Pilgrim Fellowship and the Congregational Christian Service Committee, in cooperation with the Board of Home Missions and the Council for Social Action, sponsors work camps for young people.

These camps require simple, hard work in a spirit of service and adaptability to strange and sometimes difficult living conditions; an appreciation of the convictions, ways of worship, and different backgrounds of others. They offer opportunities of Christian witness in acts of service; a common life with other young people in work and worship, study and play, and participation in the life and work of the Christian Church. They are open to volunteers of any denomination who:

- love people - are willing to be responsible to a small Christian group. - are able and willing to do monotonous, unskilled, hard work for about four weeks (shorter periods at Hughson) - have an actual or potential interest in sharing living conditions very different from those they are familiar with - are adaptable to living conditions which may be primitive and uncomfortable - are willing to tell about their experience after the summer is over - are about 18 years of age during the summer of 1954 - can pass a physical exam after acceptance - can pay or can raise the expenses for the camp, as noted (a very limited scholarship help is available for a few Congregational Christian applicants).

Camps this year are as follows:

Delmo, Missouri, begins June 21 for 8 weeks. Total cost \$70.

Ft. Berthold, North Dakota, begins July 8, for 6 weeks. Total cost \$55.50.

Hughson, California, begins July 24, for 4 weeks (or weekly). Total cost \$30.

Luquillo, Puerto Rico, begins Jan. 22 through Aug. 2 for 6 weeks. Total cost \$55.50.

Inquire about this program by writing either Superintendent Butterfield at the Convention office or the Rev. Joseph Howell, Congregational Christian Service Committee, 110 E. 29th St., New York 16, N. Y.

over which youthful rebellion may travel into rich and satisfying experiences in personal religious living.

The parents of America can strike a most effective blow against the forces which contribute to juvenile delinquency, if our mothers and fathers will take their children to Sunday School and Church regularly.

—First Church News, Columbus, Ohio, via Woodford's "The Calendar"; via "The North Parish News", Sanford, Maine.

* * *

The Rev. Wm. and Schorman announce the birth of John William on January 23 in Dublin, Iowa. This is their fourth child, the others being Vivian Irene, Eric Reed and David Charles.

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

THE MIDWINTER MEETINGS

A few days ago I boarded the "Flamingo" or the L and N, and headed toward the frozen North. While waiting for the train to pull out, it was fun to watch the big, jolly Negroes unloading a box-car on the next track. They were singing as they tossed out big boxes containing packages of potato chips. Although each box had a big red label "Handle With Care", the men were too far apart to catch every box. So, if you get a bag of broken chips from your store next week, you'll know that it was probably in one of those boxes that fell heavily to the ground when that happy handler missed.

My interest was lagging in the operation, when suddenly a woman's high-pitched scream brought me to attention. Standing by the box-car there was a fashionably dressed young lady squealing with fright. The men had unpacked all the potato chips and were now handing down screened crates of the cutest little mice you ever saw. A woman, a mouse, a scream—all very understandable. Perhaps those ten or more cartons of mice were headed toward one of Atlanta's medical research centers. I couldn't make out the address on the shipping tags. But what impressed me was the gentleness with which the big men handled those tiny mice. They could carelessly toss potato chips, but these were living creatures. Scarcely did these big Negroes tip the cages as smilingly they carried their little charges from the box-car to the truck. Watching them I almost felt a sermon coming on when the train gave a lurch and we were on our way to Cleveland and the Midwinter Meetings.

Leaders from all over the nation have gathered to face together the problems, plans, possibilities and demands of "Our Christian World Mission". Technically, these are the meetings of **The Missions Council**. The voting members of the American Board; the Directors of the Board of Home Missions; and members of the Council for Social Action. The Southeast Convention has no representatives in these groups. Added to these official voting members are a large group of corresponding members, including all the Superintendents, Christian Education Workers from the various states, the women state presidents, laymen's presidents, Secretaries of the National Boards and the Executive Committee of the General Council. For the first few days the groups meet separately to transact their own business and then we all joined together to share our information and inspiration.

These are great days, and I'm happy that the Southeast Convention is so well represented. Five of us are here now and Herman Cook may come up later. Jean Shepherd and Mary Margaret Smoot are representing our Women's Fellowship. John Pickens, Jr., is representing us among the Christian Education leaders, Rufus Farrar is in with the Laymen's Presidents. Unfortunately, we have all been so busy in our separate meetings that we've not had the chance to get together over a cup of coffee. As the months go by, we

will be sharing the things we've learned and seen and heard here in Cleveland with all of you. But right now I want you to know of the deep spiritual foundation and purpose underlining these important sessions. "The Blue Book", containing about 100 pages of agenda and reports has on its cover for all of us to see all the time these words in bold type:

"Out of the Heart of the Gospel - Our Stewardship for Our Christian World Mission" and immediately below is this scripture from a recent translation of the New Testament, Romans 12:1—

"With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that Plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity."

With this scripture constantly before us, it is no wonder that great things are happening, as we all realize more fully the demands of Christian Stewardship. As Harold B. Belcher says in the foreword of his Bluebook reports for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions: "Missions are the outreach of the life of the churches. The current interpretation of stewardship implies a conserving of funds, a careful husbanding of resources. But in an earlier and simpler day, to be a steward meant to attend to the wants of others. Concern for the welfare of others is a peculiarly Christian concept; missions is the fullest expression of that concern, and our missionaries and workers on the field are the finest examples of the true meaning of stewardship."

I like that thought! As long as we are just caring for our own needs as individuals and churches we can not lay claim to being good stewards; it is only as we attend to the needs of others - in our association, conference, convention, nation and world that we prove our stewardship. That, too, is the best test and expression of Christian fellowship.

I'll be home soon to tell you more about what happened at Midwinters!

—Erston M. Butterfield

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Convention Calendar of Events

- Feb. 21 - Day of Prayer for Students
- Feb. 21-27 - Brotherhood Week
- Feb. 27 - East Alabama-West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship meeting at Wadley, Ala.
- Mar. 7 - First Sunday in Lent
- Mar. 14 - Second Sunday in Lent
- Mar. 21 - Third Sunday in Lent
- Mar. 28 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

A Lay Look At The Ministry

by Richard Drake

Perhaps the principal need of our churches is not better and more beautiful sanctuaries, but more and better trained ministers. This is no local or denominational problem. There are 14,000 empty Protestant pulpits in the United States.

What causes this deplorable lack of leadership in our churches? For one reason our churches are not sending men into the ministry. The minister of one of Kansas' largest churches recently stated that his church had not produced a single minister in its whole 68 year history. Though most of our churches do not have such a record, this Kansas church is no isolated example.

Thousands of dollars are spent on seminary education yearly. Hundreds of young men go out from them annually fully trained. Many have been aided materially in obtaining this education. No other post graduate education is so easy to obtain financially speaking as in our seminaries. Jobs can be found and scholarships had if there is but the willingness and the need.

The challenge to do something in our world of despair has never been greater. The church's answer of hope is needed. Yet our pulpits remain unfilled, or are filled by poorly trained men. Why?

May I suggest what seems to me to be at least one very important reason for this. This is the uncompromising standard of ethics which we impose upon our young ministers.

Ministers should be subject to no different morality than the Christian layman. Certainly this is the Protestant position. If every man is his own priest and the minister's position different from the layman's only in function, as Luther claimed over 400 years ago, it is certainly in error to impose upon our ministers a special morality applicable principally to them.

In the last year in the Southeast we have lost or may lose the services of several young ministers principally because of this very problem. These men have either been totally lost to the ministry, or have had their future services impaired because of difficulties which would be of little significance in most other vocations. This concerns me, for the talents of these men are desperately needed for Christ's work.

It has been suggested that the Church's sin of turning the drunkard away on Sunday morning is greater than that of the drunkard on Saturday night. Part of the Christian Gospel is the gospel of forgiveness. Christ Himself had His Magdalene and His Matthew.

Certainly we must be ever watchful of the morality of our ministers, but we must be more ready with council and understanding than we are with condemnation. Ministers are human too, subject to the same drives and temptations the rest of us mortals are.

This, I think, is a greater problem than many realize. Thousands of our young people contemplating careers, and who seek a life of service and meaning, are literally "scared away" from

Women, Twins, Ministers

In his "Ballad of East and West" Kipling said, "Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet" . . . but in Memphis, Tennessee, recently East and West did meet for a happy reunion when Miss Anita Gregson, Presbyterian missionary to Pakistan, visited her twin sister, Mrs. Marie Wingfield, ordained minister in the Congregational Christian Church.

Miss Gregson had come back to this country for a sabbatical year, with so much to tell about the new political, social and economic arrangements of her part of Asia, where a new country has been established—Pakistan.

She relates there are about a half million Christians in Pakistan, but that 90 per cent of the population of that country is illiterate. She believes Christianity will lead Pakistan and India, and the Orient, and the whole race of man, for that matter, out of darkness into light, to salvation and to material as well as spiritual blessings.

For the Pakistanis and Indians, and other Orientals, are overwhelmed by a zeal to learn truth, and many of their enlightened leaders believe that the Christian Church is the bridge between East and West.

To this mission Anita Gregson has consecrated her life since 1923, and her mission has been to feed them, heal them, teach them, and be their friend, which was Jesus' own formula.

And all the while twin sister Marie, Mrs. Marshall Wingfield, has let her light so shine in her own land, doubling as minister, pastor's wife, church musician and tireless leader in causes for the welfare of her fellow man. On opposite sides of the world, each has kept on doing the thing on which together they had set their hearts in girlhood.

When summer comes again, Anita Gregson will go back across the Pacific to the Punjab, and she will be teaching a message of hope and inspiring them to make their own lot better both for body and soul.

the Church because of the unnatural role forced upon them. One case illustrates this point.

A young man almost became a minister, but chose teaching instead. One reason for the choice was the point in question - that he felt he would be allowed more freedom to be himself on the college campus than in the parish ministry. This is not to suggest that he contemplated being in any way immoral, but he refused to play a role defined constantly by others, and one he knew to be often at variance with his own definition of what it should be. Theological freedom leaves to the individual his own definition of his particular role, with the church and society ready with advice, not impositions.

Though the minister may say things we do not agree with and may at times act in a manner with which we do not sympathize, if we believe that the most lasting results and greatest strides can be made through freedom, we must seek to advise, attempting to understand before we roll out the artillery of judgement.

SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE NOTES

The absence of this column from recent issues has not been because there was nothing going on at Southern Union, but rather because there was too much going on for this reporter to take time to write it up. As Treasurer, I was kept quite busy at the year-end receipting donations. The two largest checks were from the East Alabama Association and the Department of Higher Education of the Board of Home Missions. The latter check was for \$3,000, double the amount received from this source in December, 1952. This substantial help, along with many smaller gifts, enabled the College to pay all of its bills for 1953 and begin the New Year with a small balance. For the share that any readers may have had in the College's ending the year without a deficit, we express again our sincere thanks.

Southern Union graduated seven students at the end of the Fall Quarter. A few other students dropped out or transferred for more technical courses elsewhere. But 20 new students enrolling in the Winter Quarter have continued our total enrollment at approximately 85, exclusive of extension students. We now have 22 veterans under the Korean G.I. Bill, whereas we had only three in the Winter Quarter last year.

Charming visitors on the campus for ten days during January were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith of Berea College. His instruction in folk games, story-telling, puppet shows, crafts—her help in making puppets—won them a place in our fondest memories of this college year.

The Student Christian Association is beginning the New Year with a series of talks and discussions on the theme: "This I Believe." First speaker to share his deepest faith and beliefs with the interest group was Professor Carl Landes. On subsequent Sunday evenings the speakers will be veteran Nofflet Williams, President Clyde Flannery, the Rev. W.E.M. Eggink, and Prof. C. S. Bennett.

To encourage seniors in neighboring high schools to go on to college and to show them a little of what Southern Union has to offer, the classes from a dozen near-by schools have been invited to spend a few hours on campus, sharing in a chapel service, looking in on classes, eating and talking with students. On February 10, Southern Union Day, students and faculty spoke in a number of high schools of Alabama for the same purpose. We would appreciate the name and address of any young person interested in entering college who might be glad to know more about Southern Union. Please send names to Dean A. R. Van Cleave, Wadley, Ala.

Coming events to which we are looking forward: . . . the Ladies' Night Banquet of the East Alabama-West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship on February 27 . . . a delegation of students and Dean A. R. Van Cleave will represent Southern Union at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Council of Southern Mountain Workers at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the end of February. . . Spring Quarter opens March 24th. . . Two Home Missions Study Tours visit the campus April 19-21. . . A Ministers' Convocation and Institute is planned May 3-7.

—David Eddy

Installation Service Held For The Rev. Collie Seymour

The Rev. Collie Seymour was installed as pastor of the Evarts Congregational Church on January 10, with the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, superintendent of the Southeast Convention, in charge of the installation service.

Other ministers participating in the service were the Rev. George S. Hunt of Stearns, Ky., Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and the Rev. Charles H. Drake, Jr., Vice-Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and a member of the faculty of Berea College.

The Rev. Seymour, a native of Georgia, recently went to the Evarts Church after serving as pastor of the non-denominational Community Church of Valparaiso, Fla., for five years. Mr. Seymour received his B.D. degree from the Vanderbilt School of Religion, Nashville, Tennessee. In each of his pastorates he has been active in local, association and state work of his denomination, twice serving as moderator of the association in which he was located. He has served two terms as scribe of the Alabama Conference and three terms as moderator of the same body. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour are living in the parsonage which is located next door to the church. They have three children, Wayne, Janet and David.



The Reverends G. S. Hunt, Erston M. Butterfield, Collie Seymour and Charles Drake.

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Helps for the Lenten Season

The Commission of Evangelism and Devotional Life has prepared many helps for the pastor for the Lenten Season. Order from Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

"The Fellowship of Prayer" and Lenten Devotions for Young People" @ .05 each in quantities under 100; @ .04 more than 100. "Highlights of Holy Week" @ .05, "A Service for Thursday of Holy Week" @ .03, and "A Service of Devotion for Good Friday" @ .03 would be helpful to the minister in planning his services.

Church News . . .



Rev. Herbert Long

The East Tallassee Church has been moving along steadily since our new pastor, the Rev. Herbert Long, came to serve the first of November. The people are happy to have the Rev. Long, his wife, Betty, and two children, Wanda and Vicky. The parsonage had been remodeled, with a new bathroom added and new kitchen sink and hot water installed.

The Rev. Long has been busy visiting members of the church and working on many projects that will soon be started. One already finished is the Church Bulletin, which has a picture of the church on the front and a complete directory of officers on the back.

Mr. Long has been well accepted in Tallassee. He has spoken at the Lion's Club and at both the First Methodist and Baptist churches. He is a member of the Greater Tallassee Ministerial Alliance and was one of the ministers taking part in the city-wide Christmas lighting program.

On the evening of January 7 the men of the church organized a Laymen's Fellowship with ten charter members. Officers elected were: G. F. Logan, President; Marrell Rhodes, Vice President; J. C. Coleman, Treasurer; Bobby Jack Pemberton, Secretary, and Murry Baker, Program Chairman. The laymen are looking forward to a great fellowship and a wonderful and useful program for the coming year. Other members present were John C. Fralic, Harvey Pemberton, Floyd Carmack, and Floyd Ballard.

The contest which the Adult Class of the Sunday School had for six weeks ended in November. The final day of the contest found 241 present,

although the enrollment is only 90. The following Sunday the losing side treated everyone to a dinner at the church after preaching services.

For their Christmas party the Adult Class had a supper party with 37 present. Mrs. Marrell Rhodes was in charge of the recreation. Pitching snow balls through a Christmas wreath, a relay game of putting pecans in a Christmas stocking, and writing letters to Santa Claus were the principal diversions. The teacher, Mrs. Floyd Ballard, gave each one a Daily Devotions Booklet and each of the women a jar of pickles she had made herself. The Sunday School superintendent is Bobby Jack Pemberton.

The Women's Fellowship entertained the women of the Central Association with a covered dish supper on January 8 when Miss Douglas, the missionary from Turkey and Bulgaria, spoke. The state president, Mrs. Fralic, and the Southeast Convention chairman of the Women's Fellowship, Mrs. Mary Margaret Smoot, were also present.

During the Christmas season the women held their Christmas program, bringing gifts which were sent to Miss Jennie Pratt at Ellis Island. The women also gave two parties for the service men at Maxwell Field Hospital, with about 75 men at each of the parties. These parties are sponsored by the Red Cross, and the East Tallassee women were praised very highly for the well planned parties and good refreshments they served. More than 50 gifts were also donated by the women. Mrs. Murry Baker is the President of the fellowship.

The Pilgrim Fellowship invited the Mt. Olive young people to meet with them in December when they had as their guest the Rev. John Pickens, Jr., of LaGrange, Ga., to help them learn better ways of planning programs and recreation. The young people gave a very impressive Christmas program at the evening service. On New Year's Eve they met with the young people of the First Methodist Church for a Watch Party. The pastor of the Methodist Church, the Rev. Cliff Albott, was in charge of the recreation. During the worship program the Rev. Herbert Long helped Rev. Albott serve the Lord's Supper to the people just as the New Year came in. This New Year's Eve will long be remembered by those



Liberty Church, East Tallassee, Alabama

who attended. PF leaders were the Misses Willa and Christine Durden.

Mrs. Floyd Balland and Mrs. Jettie Logan

* * *

Since the congregation of the Lanett Church moved into our new building on November 22, nine members have been received into our fellowship. Three babies were consecrated at our first Sunday morning worship service. In this same period of time, death has taken three of our members: Mrs. Mary Boggs, Mrs. J. D. Dollar, Sr., and Mrs. John Walls.

A tableau, cantata and church supper highlighted our Christmas season on the evening of December 20. At six o'clock all ages of our Pilgrim Fellowship participated in a tableau beautifully depicting the Christmas Story. The Chancel and Antiphonel choirs with the minister presented a Cantata for the evening worship. Following this, the congregation enjoyed supper and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Pilgrim Fellowship groups held a Watch Service with games and refreshments being enjoyed the first part of the evening. A worship service and the ringing of the church bell brought a most enjoyable evening to its close.

Recently the men of the church entertained the Langdale and Bethel laymen at a coffee hour followed by programs.

The Missionary Auxiliary was very pleased to have the Valley churches meet with us for a covered dish supper and to hear Miss Edith Douglas tell us in a most interesting manner of her work in Bulgaria and Turkey. Preceeding the speaker, the Huguley women, led by Mrs. Noel Allen, gave a most inspiring devotional. Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Convention chairmen of the Women's Fellowship, accompanied Miss Douglas on her tour of the churches and introduced her.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

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The Seman Community Church of Seman, Ala., continues to make steady progress.

During December there was an Ordination Service, ordaining the following as Deacons: Festus Moseley, Herman Cannon and Judson Betts.

A Christmas program was presented on December 18. The Junior and Primary classes gave recitations and a song, and a pantomime, "When Christ Was Born in Bethlehem", was presented by the young people and adult classes. After the program a pot-luck supper and Christmas tree were enjoyed by the whole community.

A lovely picture was given to the church by Mrs. J. G. Whitley in memory of her mother, Mrs. Cora Brown.

The church cooperates with the community in sponsoring a weekly gospel singing every Saturday night. This brings the church and community closer together in fellowship and improves the singing of the church choir.

—Mrs. Otis Stearns, reporter

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The young people of the Headland, Blackwood Church have begun the movement toward a Christian Education Building with a gift of \$40. The church voted to start the building as soon as sufficient funds were on hand to make it practic-

able. Our Fund Raising Committee consists of: Mrs. Mildred Johnson, Chairman; Mrs. Mavis Greene, Mrs. Turessa Chance, Espy Kennedy, Miss Carolyn Hicks and Deuel Brackin.

The church plans to put a new roof on the parsonage at a very early date. The Building Committee is: Maurice Rister, Merwin Johnson, Buell Johnson, Jerry Faison and Leonard Faison.

On January 12 we were very fortunate to have a visit from Miss Irene Douglas, and she gave a most interesting account of our work in Bulgaria where she served as a missionary for 31 years.

—Mrs. Dora Brackin, reporter

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On December 17 the members of the Hunt Memorial, Alexander City, W.M.U. enjoyed a covered dish supper at the church. After dinner the group assembled in the social room where bingo and games were played. Favors were small Christmas corsages. Gifts were exchanged and a special gift was presented to Miss Emmie Trussell by the members.

Attending were Miss Trussell, Mrs. Allen Smith, Mrs. Carlinus Alford, Mrs. Lynn Blair, Mrs. T. P. Patton, Mrs. E. E. Ingram, Mrs. M. O. Worley, Mrs. N. B. Riley, Mrs. E. C. Pemberton, Mrs. Reuben Allen and Mrs. James Cumbee.

The Christmas play given at the church was very good and the following Tuesday the cast of the play and their guests were entertained in the social room of the church.

—Mrs. James Cumbee, reporter

* * *

The Lanett Highway Church has had a rather busy but enjoyable time since we last reported our news. We have worked out and adopted a church budget for the 1954 year and an Every Member Canvass has been made for pledges to support the budget. This is our first budget and first EMC for pledges, and the canvass was far more successful than we expected for the first time attempted.

On the night of December 20, a Christmas play, "My Wife Mary", was presented at the church and directed by Mrs. Grady Weldon. The play was followed by a Christmas tree and the exchange of gifts of members of the Sunday School. Moving pictures of the program were made by Boyce Fant.

At this program the church presented the pastor, the Rev. A. C. Nelson, with a new suit as our appreciation for his leadership and work with and for us. The church also at this time presented a gift of \$25 to one of our members who has had prolonged illness in the family.

We are looking forward to one of the most prosperous years in the history of the church in 1954 and wish for everyone, everywhere a happy and prosperous year.

—Noel Allen, reporter

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The Woman's Fellowship of the Highway Church meets twice each month on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights. The following officers have been elected to serve during the current year: Mrs. Eula Crenshaw, President; Mrs. Harvey Stephens, Vice-president; Mrs. Freda Ferrell, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. John Vickers, Flower Chairman; and Mrs. Lonita Smoot, Social Chairman.

Our society selected two projects this year. The Home Missions project is an orphanage, the Upland Sanatorium at Pleasant Hill, Tenn. The Foreign Missions project is the Rev. and Mrs. James F. McKinley of the Philippines. Boxes were sent to both places at Christmas. Flowers were sent to the sick and we donated \$35 toward paying the church insurance.

On December 7th we had a Christmas Program with Miss Gladys Brand in charge. Those participating were Mrs. A. C. Nelson, Mrs. Johnnie Ragland, Mrs. E. M. Brown, Mrs. Charles Smith and Mrs. Freda Ferrell.

Mrs. Harvey Stephens entertained the society at a Christmas party. Many delightful games and the singing of carols was enjoyed. A delicious covered dish supper was served in her outdoor kitchen to a host of members and guests. Later in the evening gifts were exchanged by the members. At this time the society presented Mrs. Nelson with a "Deep Fat Fryer".

The Friendly Service Circle of the Highway Church is also very active and performing many services for the church and community. This circle has recently purchased wire for the parsonage lot, carried Christmas gifts to the women patients at the Batson Memorial Sanatorium in LaFayette, sent wreaths to funerals and helped others in need.

The members enjoyed a Christmas program and dinner at the church, afterwards exchanging gifts. At a previous meeting the group surprised one of the members, Mrs. Mary Gray, with a birthday party, which everyone enjoyed.

—Mrs. Johnnie Ragland

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Since last September when the Rev. Scott Morris, Jr., became pastor of the North Georgia Parish the progress which the churches are making has been very encouraging. There has been a pronounced increase in interest in the worship services, the church schools, and the social activities of the Parish.

A church school was organized at Macedonia Church, Braselton, in November with Homer Lee Beck as superintendent and Mrs. Ruby Mahafey as assistant superintendent. Attendance has been very good, with an average of 25. The school had a social, a "pop-corn and bingo party", during the Christmas holidays. All the churches in the parish now have church schools.

Sardis Church, Oxford, now boasts a Woman's Auxiliary, and the help their group is giving the church is wonderful indeed. They have raised more than \$200 for the church building fund and church expenses since their organization in October. Mrs. Albert Strickland is president of this wide-awake group, and Mrs. Betty Garner is vice-president. Mrs. Roy Martin is secretary-treasurer.

The women of Duncan's Creek Church, Buford, will meet early in February to organize a Woman's Auxiliary for their church, bringing the total to three in the Parish.

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On Christmas Sunday at the Oak Grove Church, Chipley, Ga., special music was presented by the Senior Choir for the 11 o'clock service. Sunday night, December 20, was Christmas Fam-

ily Night. The Kindergarten and Junior Choir presented a program entitled, "A Christmas Candle". After the program gifts were presented by Santa Claus and refreshments were served.

The Senior and Junior Pilgrim Fellowship had their Christmas party on December 13. The Junior P. F. made Christmas corsages for their mothers and shut-ins of the community.

The Missionary Society is sponsoring equipment for a church kitchen. They distributed 20 baskets of fruit to old people and shut-ins, and also sent contributions to Congregational Christian Service Community for "Operation Reindeer." The Missionary Society and Home Demonstration Club presented the minister's wife, Mrs. David Shepherd, with a gift of money to be used in preparation for her trip to Midwinter Meeting in Cleveland.

The average attendance in Sunday School has been considerably improved since we have been using the "Cross and Crown" system of promoting Sunday School attendance.

—Margie McGuire, reporter

* * *

The Rev. and Mrs. S. M. Penn have moved to Richland, Ga.; where the Rev. Penn has assumed the pastorate of the two Richland churches—Richland First and Providence Chapel (Red Hill). Since moving into the parsonage on January 7, the Penns have been busily engaged in getting settled and becoming acquainted with their congregations.

Members of the two churches, as well as numerous friends, showered Mr. and Mrs. Penn with gifts of food as a token of welcome. We are happy to have them with us in our church and community life once again, and we are looking forward to a spiritually prosperous new year.

—Mrs. W. J. Abell, reporter

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The Rev. F. C. Barner has accepted a call as interim pastor of the Williams Chapel Church, Waycross, Ga.

The laymen, women and young people of our church have completely redecorated the interior of the parsonage during the time that it has been vacant.

We held our first Quarterly Meeting on the night of January 6 with a good attendance, and reports were given by all officers of the church.

A large group from the church attended the Sunday School Council Meeting held at Ambrose on January 8. This is a Quarterly Meeting held in the different churches of the South Georgia Association and is proving very helpful in improving the Sunday Schools of our churches. There was a large attendance and the Rev. Henry Abbott, pastor, presented the audio visual aids entitled "The Teacher Teaches". I believe that all present will understand better how to teach after this instruction.

The Rev. W. C. Carpenter of Tifton gave some valuable information on the six point record system and how it can encourage better attendance and also more lesson study.

During the Christmas season, the church enjoyed a Christmas program on the Nativity and a Christmas tree. The ladies of our church had

taken for their missions work during Thanksgiving and Christmas a very needy family in our church community. We sent boxes of food and clothing for Thanksgiving and Christmas to the husband, wife and ten boys, and also money to buy shoes for five of the children. It was estimated that the value of the help given was around \$120.

We are hoping and praying for a great spiritual growth in all of our church work during 1954.

—Mrs. E. P. Wildes, reporter

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The Daisy Community Church has just completed one of the best years in the church history. Things are shaping up for some fine work in the future.

During last October the Pilgrim Fellowship was reorganized, with Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Ferry as the new leaders of the Teen Age Group, Mrs. Claude Pendergrass of the Junior, Mrs. Wyatt Sanders and Mrs. Dillard Blackburn of the Primary. W. D. Orr is leader of the adults.

New officers have been elected for the ladies guild, as follows: Mrs. Ellis Ferry, President; Mrs. Herman Yarnell, Vice-president; Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, Secretary; and Mrs. Wyatt Sanders, Treasurer.

On November 29 the Pilgrim Fellowship met in the sanctuary for a special service. The worship program as outlined to be used with the film "The Hidden Heart" was used and the film was shown. Mrs. Claude Pendergrass was in charge of the service.

During the November meeting of the Sunday School teachers, it was decided that an answer to the class-room need would be to combine the boys and girls in the junior and primary classes. This has worked out well and interest is growing. The Men's Bible Class is now using the room formerly used by the Junior boys. The Guild has taken as its new project the purchasing of new supplies for the Sunday School class-rooms.

The Union Sing met at the Daisy Church in December, and at this meeting W. D. Orr, from our group, was elected President for 1954.

On December 17 the Guild held its Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Herman Yarnell with Mrs. Herman Ables and Mrs. Ortha Hix as co-hostesses. Mrs. J. W. Davenport gave the devotional and prayer. The group sang carols, and after the business session a social hour was enjoyed. A basket of food was prepared for a needy family. Sunshine Sister gifts were exchanged and revealed and new names drawn.

The Sunday School entertained the children with a Christmas party in the Cabin. Ken Griswold, S.S. Superintendent, was in charge of the program. The Sunday School children presented the Christmas Program in the church on December 20, with every child taking part and every child present.

On December 27 the Pilgrim Fellowship met in the sanctuary for a group meeting. After our opening singing session the filmstrip "Holy Chile of Bethlehem" was shown with Paul Davenport operating the machine.

The Annual Church Meeting was held on De-

cember 20 with all groups and organizations giving good reports. Our treasurer reported the budget had been met and all bills paid and a substantial balance on hand. A budget of \$3,800 was adopted for 1954, which included a raise in the pastor's salary. Officers for the year are: Deacons—R. C. Webb, K. R. Griswold, E. F. West, James Sanders, Paul Lewis and Alton Frazier. Trustees—Wyatt Sanders, Eugene Burnett, W. D. Orr, Dillard Blackburn, Donald Quick and Ellis Ferry. Church Clerk, Paul Davenport; Treasurer, Mrs. Don Quick; S. S. Supt., K. R. Griswold; S. S. Secretary, Mrs. Wyatt Sanders; and auditors, Mrs. Ella Lewis and R. C. Webb.

—Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter

* * *

The annual meeting of the Sterns Congregational Christian Church began with a fellowship dinner on the evening of January 10.

Reports were given from all officers and committees and boards, and reflected a year of progress for the church. Outstanding among the reports was that of the Laymen's Fellowship, which has been contributing a great deal in both labor and money to the beautification of the church building. It has been almost entirely redecorated during this past year and adds much to the worshipful atmosphere of the church. All groups reporting indicated a healthy balance in their treasuries.

The Church Clerk, George M. Humble, has held this office for thirty years, and those present expressed their deep appreciation for his service and consecration.

The Rev. and Mrs. G. S. Hunt are now in their ninth year of service to the church. Mr. Hunt is now serving as Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

After the reports, the meeting was brought to a close with an inspirational address by the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent of the Southeast Convention.

* * *

The annual business meeting of the Pleasant Hill Community Church was held January 6 with about 75 people present for the meeting and supper, among them being Dr. Paul R. Reynolds, who comes to Pleasant Hill as minister on March 1. T. L. Cunningham moderated the meeting.

Reports from various areas of work in which our church is engaged were given by the following people: For the Sunday School, Miss Miriam Heermans; Church Support Committee, Carl Thompson; Deacons, Dr. Cyril Haas; Deaconesses, Mrs. Cyril Haas; Trustees, J. Frank Meisamer, Jr.; Pilgrim Fellowship, Miss Norma Moore; Young Adult Group, Mrs. William Boyce; Church Women's Fellowship, Mrs. Cyril Haas; Social Action Committee, Dr. Cyril Haas; Fellowship Committee, Miss Katherine Fletcher; Committee on Pastoral Relations, Miss Alice Adshead; Treasury, T. L. Cunningham.

In a rising vote of thanks, the church expressed its appreciation to Miss Margaret Campbell who has been responsible for the lovely decorations we have had at the church from week to week. Many, many have been the remarks of homefolk and visitors alike about the appro-

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priate way in which our chapel is always made worshipful.

The church voted unanimously to go on record in its appreciation of the fine service Mrs. O. C. Stewart, Jr., is rendering in her work with our choir and church service. The music of both Mrs. Stewart and the choir have made our services more meaningful.

Members went away from the meeting feeling that altogether we have had a worthwhile year: we have increased our membership by 19; our services have been well attended; we have put about \$8,000 in improvements on our church and parsonage; as evidenced by our Every Member Canvass our people are giving liberally to Christian work in our own community and in the world through gifts to "Our Christian World Mission" and the "Church Building Loan Fund Campaign"; more people have been giving of themselves as well as their means to Christian work; all departments of our church and church school work are moving along in a positive way; and, we have a regular pastor and his family coming to live in Pleasant Hill soon. For all these things we are indeed truly thankful.

Officers who were elected at the meeting are as follows: Moderator: Dr. Paul R. Reynolds; Associate Moderator, T. L. Cunningham; Clerk, Mrs. T. L. Cunningham; Treasurer, T. L. Cunningham; Church School Superintendent, Miss Mariam Heermans; Ass't Church School Supt., Denton Cole; Deacons, Dr. Cyril Haas, J. F. Meisamer, Carlos Vanwinkle; Junior Deacons, William Thompson, Robert Dodson; Trustees, Mrs. J. F. Meisamer, Dale Haggard, Earl Clark, J. Frank Meisamer, and V. J. Dodson; Social Action Committee, Dr. Cyril Haas, Mrs. Virginia Cole, Norma Moore, Frank Little, and Mrs. Paul Reynolds; Church Support Committee, Denton Cole, Carl Thompson, Dr. May Wharton, Venus Dodson, John L. Seegraves and Freda Tucker; Youth Activities Committee, Mary Stewart, Tommy Little, Robert Dodson, Iris Cole, Ardene Swafford; Advisors, J. Frank Meisamer and Dr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds; Lord's Acre Committee, Dale Haggard, Dr. Cyril Haas, Miss Margaret Lehman, Betty Cunningham, Bascon Dodson; Farm Advisory Committee, V. J. Dodson, Dale Haggard and T. L. Cunningham.

The Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent of the Southeast Convention, preached at the church on January 17. This was his first visit to Pleasant Hill Church and the congregation and community enjoyed both his preaching and making his acquaintance.

* * *

The Annual Meeting of the Memphis' First Church was better attended than ever before, with many good reports. More adults were received and more Christenings performed in 1953 than ever before. There was more money in the Treasury at year's end than in many years—over \$3,000.

A new floor furnace has been installed in Pilgrim Hall.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Emma V. Dollar, wife of the beloved and honored Reverend John D. Dollar, passed away on November 26, 1953, at her home in Lanett, Alabama.

Mrs. Dollar had been ill exactly eight years to the day of her death from a stroke which left her paralyzed and speechless. For all of the years she had been in bed and was cared for by the family, but through it all she was patient, cheerful, and grateful—which made the responsibility a service of loving care on the part of the family.

Their children are: Mrs. W. C. Beverley, Roanoke; Mrs. Howard Looser, Mrs. W. S. Huff, Mrs. J. P. Hamby, Mrs. A. D. Harry, all of Lanett; Mrs. James Hooks, Shawmut; Mrs. Herbert Martin, Lawton, Oklahoma; the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, Roanoke; Leon Dollar, Shawmut; Milford Dollar and John D. Dollar, Jr., of Lanett; and James Dollar of Langdale. There are 30 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

During all of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Dollar lived in Randolph and Chambers Counties, Alabama, where the Rev. Dollar has at some time served very nearly all the churches of the East Association as pastor. They have lived in the Valley since 1927, at which time he became pastor of the Lanett Church—the first full time pastorate in the churches of Alabama.

Funeral services for Mrs. Dollar were held in the Lanett Church on November 27 with an overflow attendance of friends. Dr. D. W. Shepherd read the Old Testament lesson and led in prayer; the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield read the New Testament lesson, and the Rev. Joe A. French delivered the sermon on the subject, "A Mother in Israel".



The Rev. John Dollar and Mrs. Dollar on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.